

4. (Twice Amended) The floor mat as in any one of Claims 1, 2, and 3, wherein each of said protrusions integrated within said mat structure has a cross section shape selected from the group consisting of circular, oval, elliptical, octagonal, rounded, and polygonal.

5. (Twice Amended) The floor mat as in any one of Claims 1, 2, and 3, wherein at least one of said protrusions integrated within said rubber mat structure is located on the top surface of said mat.

6. (Twice Amended) The floor mat as in any one of Claims 1, 2, and 3, wherein the thickness of the resultant first layer of foam rubber is from about 5 to about 500 mils.

8. (Twice Amended) The floor mat as in any one of claims 1, 2, 3, and 7, wherein said rubber mat structure includes at least one of cleats and texture on one of the upper or lower surfaces thereof.

11. (Twice Amended) The floor mat as in any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, and 10, wherein the protrusions are in arrangements selected from groups, designs, patterns, stripes, words, or combinations thereof.

14. (Amended) A method of forming a cushioned dust control mat comprising the steps of

(a) placing a die having at least a first and second side over at least a portion of at least one layer of unvulcanized rubber and of at least one layer of unvulcanized rubber further comprising at least one blowing agent to form a closed-cell foam rubber structure upon vulcanization, wherein said die has a plurality of portions thereof removed to allow for the entry of molten rubber, and wherein said die is comprised of a material which can withstand vulcanization temperatures and pressures;

(b) subjecting the resultant composite comprising at least two layers of unvulcanized rubber and the die to vulcanization temperatures and pressures to vulcanize the at least two layers of rubber, and to form a plurality of rubber protrusions through the removed portions of the die, wherein at least one of said protrusions has a cross section shape selected from the group consisting of circular, oval, elliptical, octagonal, rounded, polygonal, letters, numbers, and combinations thereof.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein said removed portions of said die are substantially in the shape selected from the group consisting of letters, numbers, designs, patterns, circles, ovals, ellipsis, polygons, and combinations thereof.

29. (Amended) The floor mat of Claim 1, wherein each of said protrusions have a cross section shape selected from the group consisting of letters, numbers, designs, patterns, circles, ovals, ellipsis, polygons, and combinations thereof.

32. (Amended) The floor mat as in any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 29, 30, and 31, further including a raised border surrounding said protrusions.

34. (Amended) The floor mat as in any one of Claims 2 and 3, wherein said second layer of solid rubber comprises an upper cap which covers the upper surface of said mat.

37. (Amended) The floor mat as in any one of Claims 1, 2, and 3, wherein said protrusions are located on the bottom surface of said mat.

38. (Amended) The floor mat as in any one of Claims 2 and 3, further comprising at least one of nubs and bumbs on the upper surface thereof.

41. (Amended) The floor mat as in any one of Claims 1, 2, 3, and 7, wherein each of said protrusions has a cylindrical upper end and a lower conical portion.

43. (Amended) The floor mat of Claim 4, wherein said protrusions are in arrangements selected from groups, designs, patterns, stripes, words, or combinations thereof.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 4 – 6, 8, 11, 32, 34, 37, 38, and 41 to comply with MPEP Section 608.01(n). Hence, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 4 – 6, 8, 11, 32, 34, 37, and 38 under 37 CFR 1.75(c).